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our own joy in books through bibliographies. We should share our belief that a bibliography is not a mere list without a soul; it

is something more than author, title, imprint and collation. It may be an open gate, a winding road, a window into the infinite.

A.L.A. PUBLICATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL LIBRARY

By ADELAIDE R. HASSE, *Editor, Special Libraries, Washington, D. C.*

SUMMARY. SECOND GENERAL SESSION

I speak as a free agent; I have not wanted to speak in any way involving or implicating either the Special Libraries Association or its journal.

The question that came to me was, What can the A.L.A. do in the way of publications for special libraries? I thought about it a good deal, and I have come to the conclusion that at the present time the A.L.A. can do nothing in the way of publications for special libraries, for two reasons:

The A.L.A. has for too long, too consistently had the public library point of view. Now that isn't saying anything derogatory to public libraries. They have a great mission; they are doing a wonderful work but it is just a little bit different in angle, in aspect from that of special library work. Therefore, until the A.L.A. point of view verges around a little bit more to that of the distinctively special library work, the A.L.A. cannot do anything in the way of publication that will be of benefit to special libraries. Another reason that the A.L.A. at the present time—I don't say you cannot in the future, but at the present time—cannot do anything that would be of any great benefit to special libraries is that we do not know quite yet, all of us do not understand just what a special library is.

There is special library work being done in what we call public libraries; that is generally the community library doing special community library work,—notably you see it in Indianapolis and in Newark, in the business branches of those libraries. There are other community libraries doing special community library work.

Among the distinctively special libraries there are libraries whose work is very much like that of the general community or, as you call it, public library, i. e., those special libraries in plants and corporations, which

cater to the employees of the corporation, and whose work is more nearly like that which may be called special welfare library work, where the circulation is chiefly fiction or recreational literature, or literature of an educational nature, concerned with the particular work of the employee.

Another sort of special library is what we at the present time term the technical special library. It is that special library which is very closely associated with the executive staff, or, if there is a technical laboratory in the plant, with the staff of the technical laboratory. That is the distinctively special library. Now of those technical special libraries there is a very great diversity. There are, for instance, soap manufacturers who have a special library; the rice people; the brass people; the aluminum industry, and many others that I could name that are distinctively special laboratory libraries.

Of course the law libraries which are organized; the state libraries which are organized; children's libraries,—they are all special libraries, but they are provided for in their organizations.

There is one thing, one common feature underlying the work of all the so-called special libraries: they are information factories. Now get me! I am not talking about journals or pamphlets, or books. I am talking about information,—the specific fact. It may still be in a man's brain, it may not yet have gotten into print; it may be in typewritten form only. I am talking about information. The distinctively special libraries have this in common, that they are information factories. Now if the A.L.A. can do this for these information factories, if the A.L.A. can put the fact in factory, I say go ahead; then you can do something for special libraries.

If the A.L.A. could establish some liaison

body, that could go out and get into touch with what the employers of special libraries want and give them that, then the A.L.A. would be doing a great thing for special libraries. These employers are organized into great trade associations. Many of them have research committees and bodies, and laboratories. If you could connect with those employers, and give them what they want in the way of special library facilities, you would be doing a wonderful thing; but do not try to sell them what is not saleable, and that is method and procedure. Keep that for yourselves. Take that as a matter of

course. Of course we have got to be proficient in procedure and method, but do not try to sell it because it is not saleable.

As a matter of fact I think it takes a good deal of nerve on the part of the A.L.A. at this late date to ask what it can do for special library work, when there is a well-organized association, much younger than the A.L.A., attempting to do it,—doing what the A.L.A. has not done, maintaining a magazine of its own to serve its special interests, to get into touch as much as it can, with the employers, with the market of its constituents.

A.L.A. PUBLICATIONS FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

By ANDREW KEOGH, *Librarian, Yale University Library, New Haven, Connecticut*

SECOND GENERAL SESSION

The A.L.A. is predominately a public library organization. Its history, its membership, the papers read at its meetings, leave no doubt on this point. The existence of a College and Reference Section shows that scholarly things are not the Association's main concern. The establishment of a public library section would be considered absurd. This description of our organization is not only accurate in fact, but agrees with our professional theory, for it is the establishment and development of libraries for the people at large that is the outstanding characteristic of American library activity.

It is therefore proper that in the publications of our Association the emphasis should be laid on helps to readers in popular libraries. The \$100,000 gift by Mr. Carnegie as an endowment for publication stipulated that the income should be applied "to the preparation and publication of such lists, indexes, and other bibliographic and literary aids as would be specially useful in the circulating libraries of the country." The *A.L.A. catalog* of 1904 was characterized by Mr. Dewey as "the most important and valuable single book that could be made to aid in the great public library movement," and he defined the word *best*, as applied to the books selected for inclusion in that catalog, as meaning best for the general reader. The *Booklist*, which is in a sense a continuation

of the *A.L.A. catalog*, is meant to serve "particularly the smaller and medium sized libraries of the country." It is true that some of our publications are scholarly in character, but having little popular appeal they have a limited circulation, and must be published at a loss, or at least at a risk of loss. Our foreign lists, for example, while meeting a real need, cannot be sold in numbers large enough to pay the cost of production.

The college and university libraries are greatly interested in the provision of bibliographic aids of a scholarly character. The A.L.A. publications of this kind are much used in colleges, and most of them owe their existence to the collaboration of members of college faculties. Samples of similar bibliographies that might well receive encouragement and support from the A.L.A. are in the report made at Colorado Springs of the Special Committee on Publishing Activities. Another Carnegie should be found who would do for the scholarly libraries what he did for the popular ones, and if a large amount cannot be secured small sums might be had for specific purposes. The money should be used for the college rather than for the university. The college is for instruction, for the transmission of knowledge, for the understanding of the past and of the present. The university is for research, for the ad-